

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USNMR SHAPE

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S E C R E T STATE 169247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: THE TANK ARMY

REF: NATO 3669

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DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS

1. WE NOTE (REFTEL) APPARENT CONFUSION OVER THE US POSITION ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY. MISSION MAY WISH TO CLARIFY OUR POSITION BY NOTING THAT:

A. OUR INTENTIONS AS REGARDS THE WITHDRAWAL OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY HAVE NOT CHANGED SINCE WE SUPPORTED THE ADOPTION OF CM 73 (83).

B. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD WITHDRAW A TANK ARMY (FIVE DIVISIONS AND RELATED ELEMENTS INCLUDING EQUIPMENT). REDUCTIONS WOULD INCLUDE 68,000 SOVIET SOLDIERS AND 1700 SOVIET MAIN BATTLE TANKS. THOUGH CERTAIN SOVIET TANK ARMIES IN NGA MAY HAVE LESS THAN 68,000 MEN AND 1700 MAIN BATTLE TANKS, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO EXCLUDE WITHDRAWAL OF ANY SOVIET TANK ARMY IF SUFFICIENT ADDITIONAL UNITS WERE WITHDRAWN TO SATISFY THE FOREGOING REQUIREMENTS.

C. POST-REDUCTION LIMITATIONS SHOULD BE APPLIED ONLY TO THE RESIDUAL LEVEL OF MEN AND TANKS. NEITHER UNITS NOR EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN TANKS WOULD BE LIMITED AFTER THE REDUCTIONS, IN ORDER TO AVOID CORRESPONDING LIMITATIONS ON US FORCE STRUCTURE.

2. IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS SUCH AS THOSE IN PARA. 13 REFTEL, MISSION MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING ANSWERS:

A. QUESTION: DO WE CARE WHICH 68,000 MEN AND 1700 TANKS ACTUALLY ARE WITHDRAWN? ANSWER: YES. THE 68,000 MEN AND 1700 MAIN BATTLE TANKS SHOULD INCLUDE THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE TANK ARMY TO BE WITHDRAWN.

B. QUESTION: SHOULD FROGS AND SCUDS ACTUALLY WITHDRAW? ANSWER: WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THEY WOULD AND WE WOULD WANT THEM TO BE WITHDRAWN AS PART OF THE EQUIPMENT OF THE TANK ARMY THAT IS WITHDRAWN. THERE WOULD, HOWEVER, BE NO RESIDUAL CONSTRAINT ON THE POST-REDUCTION DEPLOYMENT OF FROGS OR SCUDS.

C. QUESTION: SHOULD OTHER ELEMENTS OF A TANK ARMY
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ACTUALLY WITHDRAW? ANSWER: WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THEY WOULD AND WE WOULD WANT THEM TO BE WITHDRAWN AS PART OF THE TANK ARMY THAT IS WITHDRAWN. THERE WOULD, HOWEVER, BE NO RESIDUAL CONSTRAINT ON ELEMENTS OTHER THAN TANKS AND MANPOWER.

D. QUESTION: WHAT EXPLICIT LIMITATIONS WOULD BE PLACED ON THE SOVIETS? ANSWER: EXPLICIT CONSTRAINTS WOULD BE PLACED

ONLY ON TANKS AND MANPOWER.

E. QUESTION: WHAT IMPLICIT LIMITATIONS WOULD BE PLACED ON THE SOVIETS? ANSWER: WE WOULD NOT SEEK ANY IMPLICIT LIMITATIONS AS THE RESULT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE TANK ARMY.

F. QUESTION: WHERE SHOULD WE DRAW THE LINE BETWEEN OUR INITIAL DEMAND AND A FALL-BACK POSITION? ANSWER: WE SEE NO NEED NOW FOR ANYTHING BEYOND THE POSITION STATED ABOVE.

G. QUESTION: UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD WE MOVE TO A FALL-BACK POSITION? ANSWER: WE SEE NO NEED NOW FOR ANYTHING BEYOND THE POSITION STATED ABOVE. KISSINGER

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